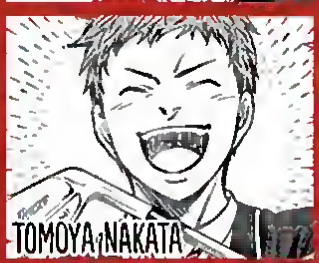
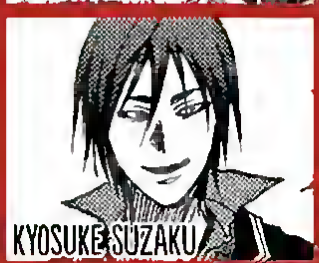
ROBOT×LASERBEAM

BY TADATOSHI FUJIMAKI

Robato Hatohara, a stupidly serious, creepily thorough and socially clueless high school boy, appears to have no interest in anything—including joining his friend Tomoya in the golf club. But when it's discovered that his perfect accuracy and calculations enable him to golf like a practiced professional, will he be able to escape playing golf?





PREVIOUSLY IN *ROBOT×LASERBEAM*:

After Robato Hatohara demonstrates his perfect swing, famous high school golfer Yozan Miura declares him to be his rival! But for their rivalry to actually grow, Robo needs to join the golf club and become a regular. A second-year student and regular, Rion Osanai, takes Robo under his wing to accomplish this goal and help him get a score in the seventies before the training camp. Having heard of Robo's triumph over Yozan, Tohoku International's Kyosuke Suzuaku, a.k.a. "the Emperor," challenges Robo to play against him in a practice match. On the 18th hole of the match, the schools are tied with a score of 13 under. Robo and Kyosuke are the last to tee off, and Robo wins it for Eiai with an eagle. After the match, it's revealed that Tohoku International was most likely holding back—especially Suzaku—and that their team has a long way to go if they want to beat them in a real match. Robo returns to his normal school life determined more than ever to beat Suzaku and Yozan, and declaring that he really does find golf fun! With the training camp coming up, Robo spends a day with his friends picking up supplies. But suddenly, Suzaku reaches out to him and invites him and his friends to go watch Yozan play!

...IS PROVING TO BE LIKE NOTHING WE'VE SEEN BEFORE!
THIS YEAR'S SANY YOTSUBA OPEN...
SRIXON
AND THAT'S ALL THANKS TO HIM!
A FIRST-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL AMATEUR.
YOZAN MIURA!!
SANYよつば
LEADERS
三浦魔山 Y.MIURA
佐藤 将 S.SATO
Y.イ リ Y.IRI
森 光恩 S.U.SEN
進藤雅浩 M.SHINDO
松永信彦 N.MATSUNAGA
神田高貴 K.KANDA
青木 健 T.AOKI
沢口佑磨 Y.SAWAGUCHI
...AND BY THE END OF THE THIRD DAY, HE WAS TIED FOR THE LEAD! HE REALLY HAS A CHANCE TO WIN THIS!
WITH A DRIVER AS HIS WEAPON OF CHOICE, HE'S BEEN RACKING UP CONSISTENT BIRDIES...

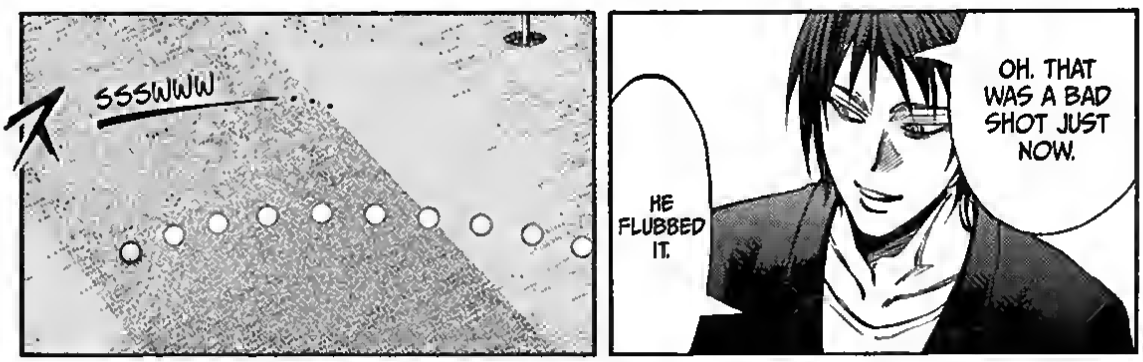
THOSE ARE ALL VERY GOOD POINTS. IN RECENT YEARS, AMATEURS HAVE BEEN RISING TO HIGHER AND HIGHER LEVELS— THE GAP BETWEEN A TOP AMATEUR AND THE PROS IS SHRINKING.
IF HE PULLS IT OFF, HE'LL BE ONE OF THE FEW AMATEURS TO EVER WIN THE TOURNAMENT!
WHAT'RE YOUR THOUGHTS, TOGARI-SAN?
HE'LL NO DOUBT BECOME A BIG-NAME GOLFER KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD.
USING HIS PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO MAKE IT THIS FAR IN ONLY THREE YEARS IS PROOF OF HIS RAW TALENT.
BUT EVEN IN THAT CONTEXT HE'S STILL QUITE EXCEP-TIONAL.
THUD
FLY

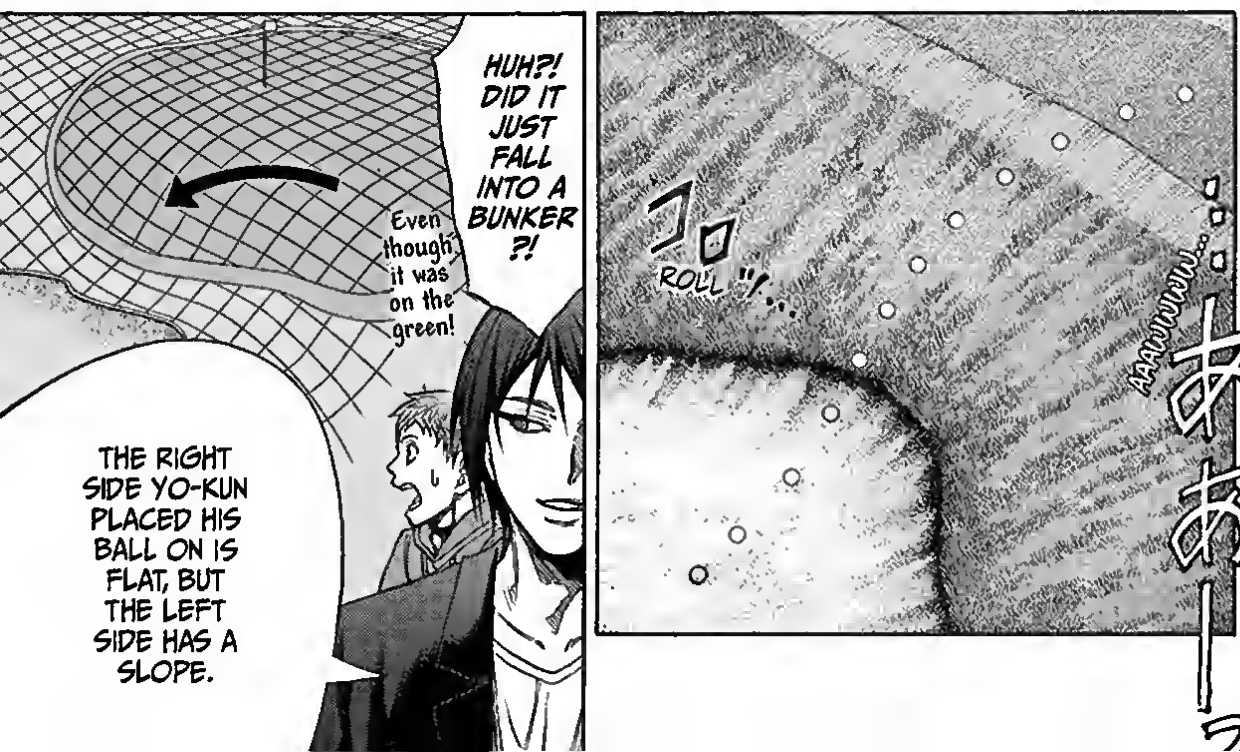
WHAT AN AMAZING SHOT! THE BALL LANDED ONLY A METER AWAY FROM THE PIN ON THE TENTH HOLE!
WAAAAAH!
AND YOZAN MIURA DOES IT AGAIN!
HE'LL DEFINITELY GET A BIRDIE.
SRIXON

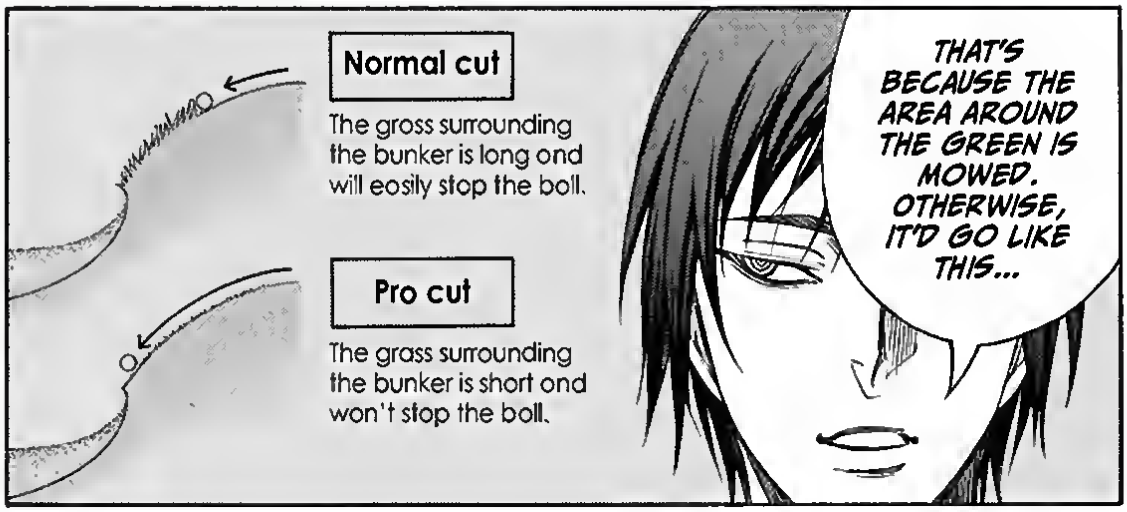
Round 28: Reunion

WOOOOOOT!
WHOA! YOZAN-KUN'S AWESOME!
YOU SEE THAT, ROBO—
URK
BWAH ?!
WATCH YOUR STEP.
THE ROUGH THIS YEAR'S PARTICU-LARLY DEEP.
YOU OKAY?
FOR ALL THE TIMES I'VE SEEN IT ON TV... I NEVER REALIZED HOW DEEP IT WAS.
IF MY BALL GOT STUCK HERE, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO HIT IT OUT!
IT COMES UP TO MY ANKLES!

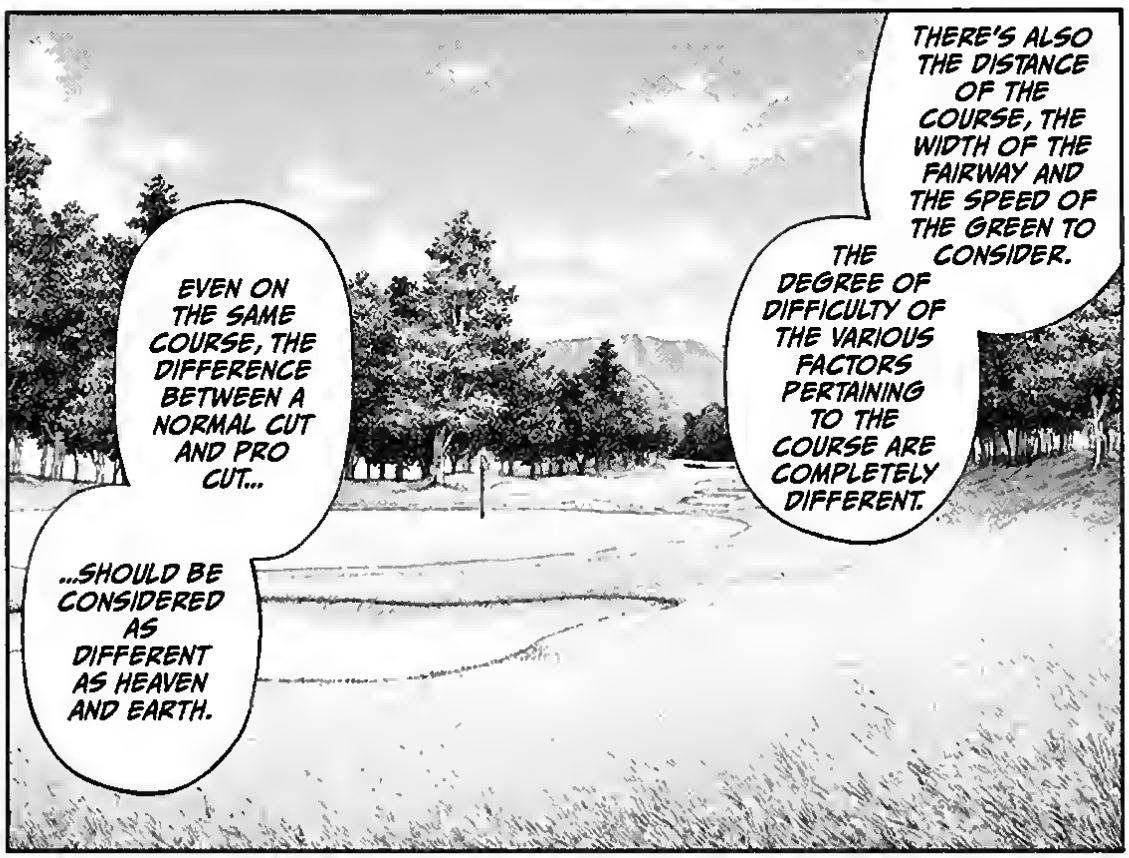
THUMP
AND HERE COMES SATO, ALSO IN THE FINAL GROUP, WITH HIS SECOND HIT!
FWSH


SSSWWW...
HE FLUBBED IT.
OH. THAT WAS A BAD SHOT JUST NOW.


HUH?! DID IT JUST FALL INTO A BUNKER?!
Even though it was on the green!
THE RIGHT SIDE YO-KUN PLACED HIS BALL ON IS FLAT, BUT THE LEFT SIDE HAS A SLOPE.
ROLL
AAAUUUUU...
あー

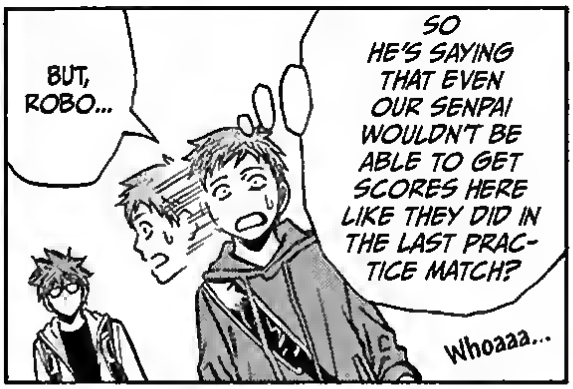

Normal cut
The gross surrounding the bunker is long and will easily stop the ball.
Pro cut
The grass surrounding the bunker is short and won't stop the ball.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE AREA AROUND THE GREEN IS MOWED. OTHERWISE, IT'D GO LIKE THIS...

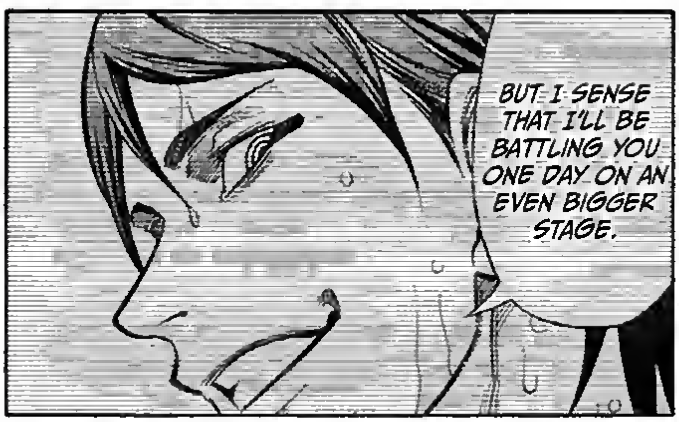
WHOA...

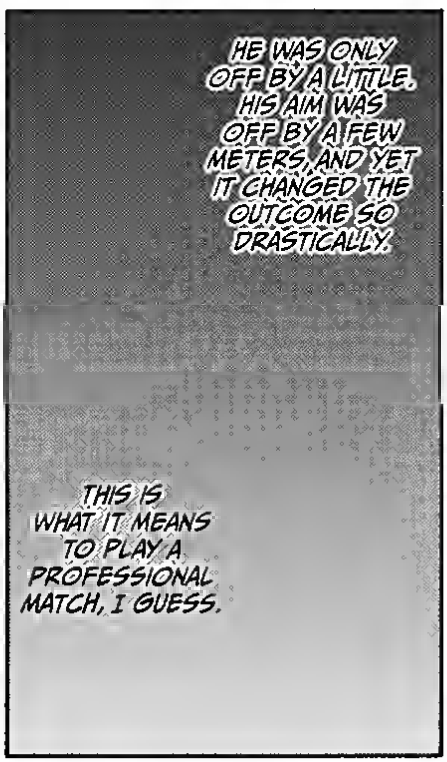

THERE'S ALSO THE DISTANCE OF THE COURSE, THE WIDTH OF THE FAIRWAY AND THE SPEED OF THE GREEN TO CONSIDER.
THE DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY OF THE VARIOUS FACTORS PERTAINING TO THE COURSE ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
EVEN ON THE SAME COURSE, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NORMAL CUT AND PRO CUT...
...SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS DIFFERENT AS HEAVEN AND EARTH.

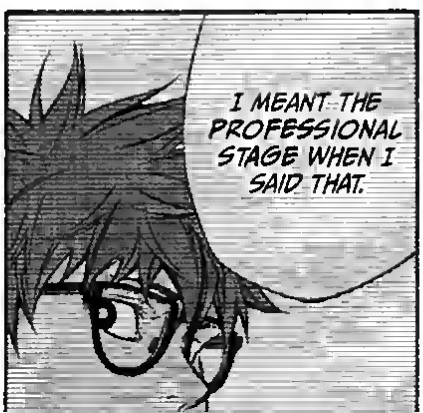
WHAAA?
BUT EVEN IF YOU TRY TO COMPARE IT TO THAT, THE DIFFERENCE IN SCORES COULD EQUAL FIVE STROKES.
MATCHES WITH HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE ALSO DONE WITH A CUT THAT LENDS A HIGHER DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY THAN A NORMAL CUT.

IT'S INCREDIBLE.
YEAH ...


BUT, ROBO...
SO HE'S SAYING THAT EVEN OUR SENPAI WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET SCORES HERE LIKE THEY DID IN THE LAST PRACTICE MATCH?
Whoaaa...


BUT I SENSE THAT I'LL BE BATTLING YOU ONE DAY ON AN EVEN BIGGER STAGE.

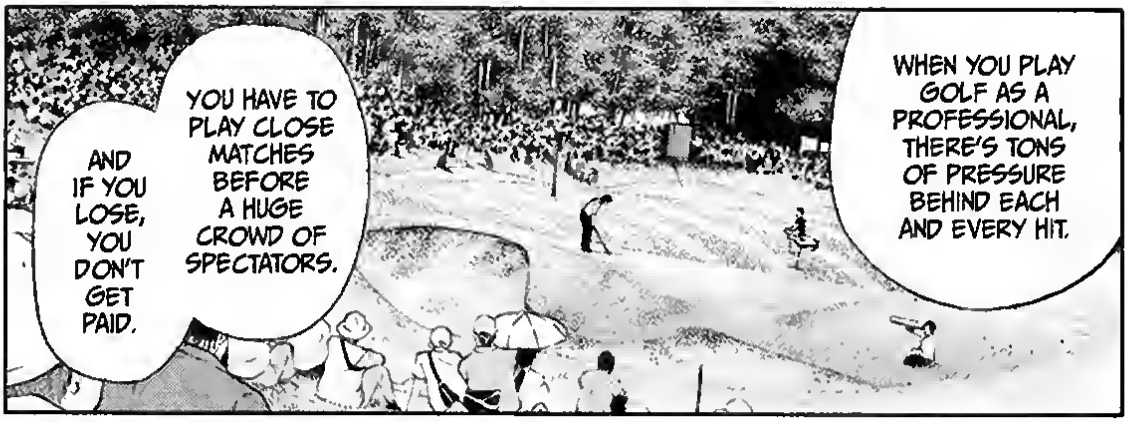

HE WAS ONLY OFF BY A LITTLE. HIS AIM WAS OFF BY A FEW METERS, AND YET IT CHANGED THE OUTCOME SO DRASTICALLY.
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO PLAY A PROFESSIONAL MATCH, I GUESS.

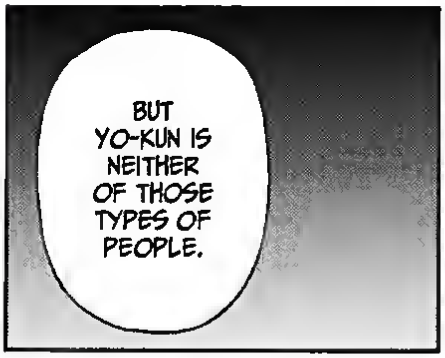

I MEANT THE PROFESSIONAL STAGE WHEN I SAID THAT.

COULD I...
...BE A PRO?

ooo

YO-KUN ISN'T A PLAYER WHO COULD GO PRO.
HE'S A PLAYER WHO MUST.
?
DID WHAT I SAID EARLIER NOT SINK IN YET?
UH...
YES.


WHEN YOU PLAY GOLF AS A PROFESSIONAL, THERE'S TONS OF PRESSURE BEHIND EACH AND EVERY HIT.
YOU HAVE TO PLAY CLOSE MATCHES BEFORE A HUGE CROWD OF SPECTATORS.
AND IF YOU LOSE, YOU DON'T GET PAID.

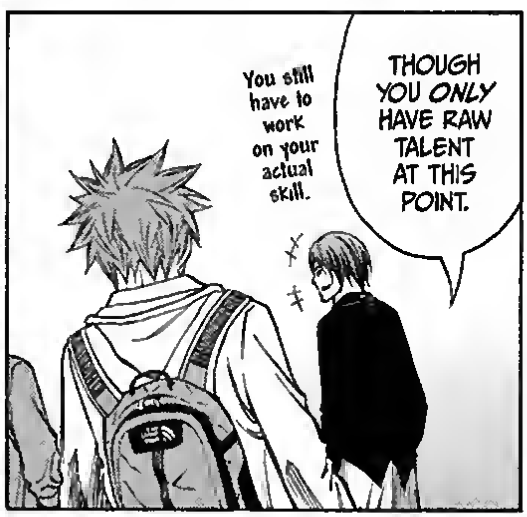

BUT YO-KUN IS NEITHER OF THOSE TYPES OF PEOPLE.

THOSE WHO COWER IN THE FACE OF THAT PRESSURE LOSE.
THOSE WHO OVERCOME IT AND EXHIBIT THEIR NATURAL PROWESS WIN.

THE MORE EXTREME THE MATCH IS, THE MORE FOCUSED HE GETS.
AT TIMES, HE EVEN SURPASSES HIS LIMITS.
HE IS ESPECIALLY GIFTED.

JUST LIKE YOU, ROBO.

THOK

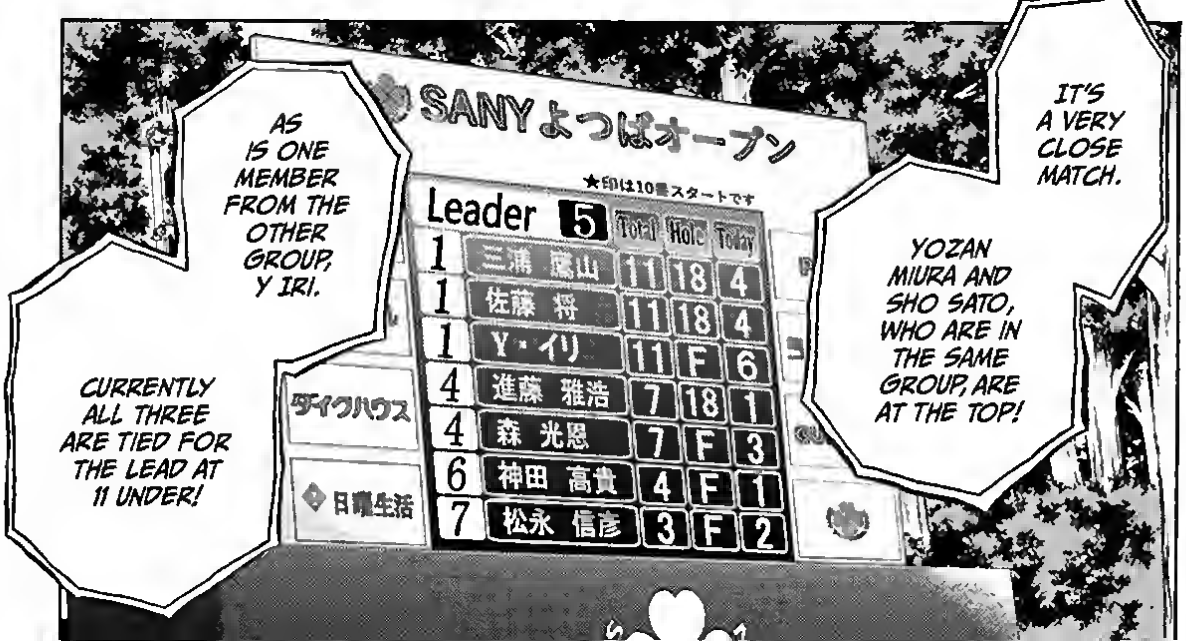

THOUGH YOU ONLY HAVE RAW TALENT AT THIS POINT.
You still have to work on your actual skill.

ooo

THERE IT IS!! SATO GETS A CHIP-IN BIRDIE!!
HE'S ONCE AGAIN AT THE TOP AFTER THE 17TH HOLE!
WAAAAAH!
THUMP
KLUNK

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO LOSE TO YOU THAT EASILY.
BUT...
YOZAN MIURA... IT'S TRUE YOU WILL DEFINITELY BE A BIG SHOT IN THE FUTURE.

WOAH... SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT FROM HIM!
SRIXON
SRIXON


AS IS ONE MEMBER FROM THE OTHER GROUP, Y IRI.
CURRENTLY ALL THREE ARE TIED FOR THE LEAD AT 11 UNDER!
IT'S A VERY CLOSE MATCH.
YOZAN MIURA AND SHO SATO, WHO ARE IN THE SAME GROUP, ARE AT THE TOP!
SANYよつばオープン
★印は10番スタートです
Leader 5
Total Hole Today
1 三浦 康山 11 18 4
1 佐藤 将 11 18 4
1 Y・イリ 11 F 6
4 進藤 雅浩 7 18 1
4 森 光恩 7 F 3
6 神田 高貴 4 F 1
7 松永 信彦 3 F 2
ダイワハウス
日曜生活

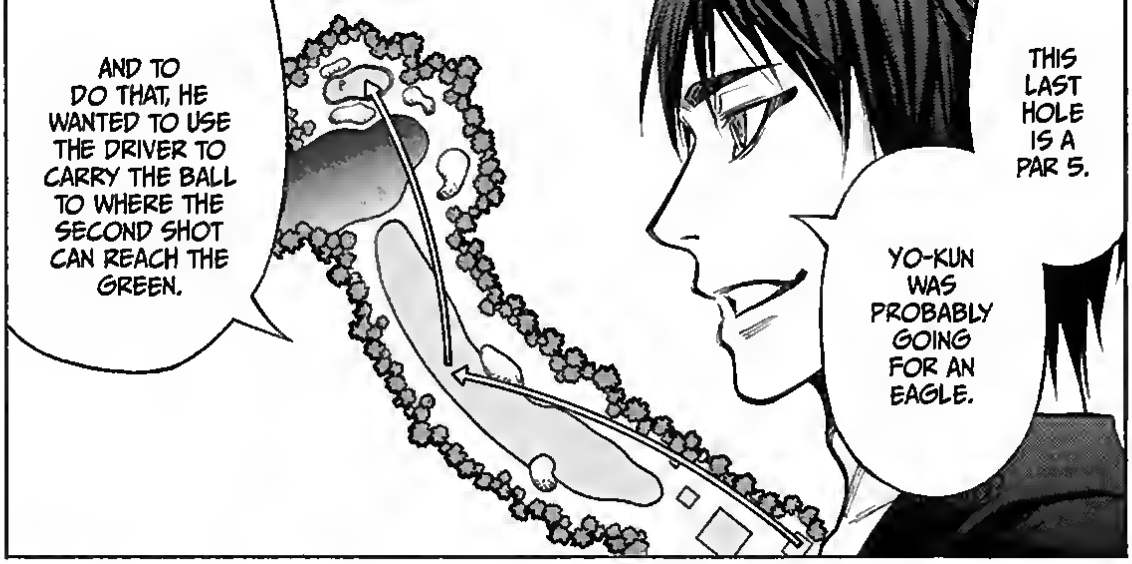
THOK
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN THIS THING SO EASILY.
AS EXPECTED FROM A PRO... NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES...
WHICH IS JUST WHAT I WANTED!!

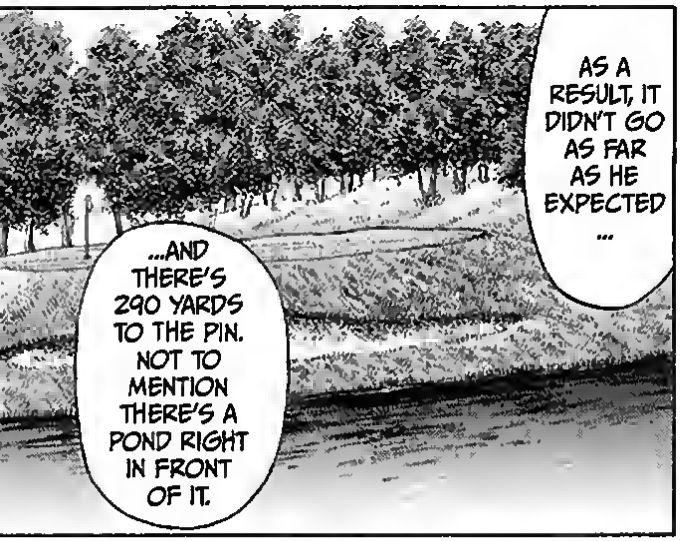
IT'S THE FINAL HOLE—HOLE 18! AND YOZAN MIURA TEES OFF!
OOOOOH!
IT'S HIS LIGHTNING STRIKE!
A DRIVER SHOT HE PUTS ALL HIS STRENGTH BEHIND!
WHOOSH
THUMP
IT CARRIED 300 YARDS.*

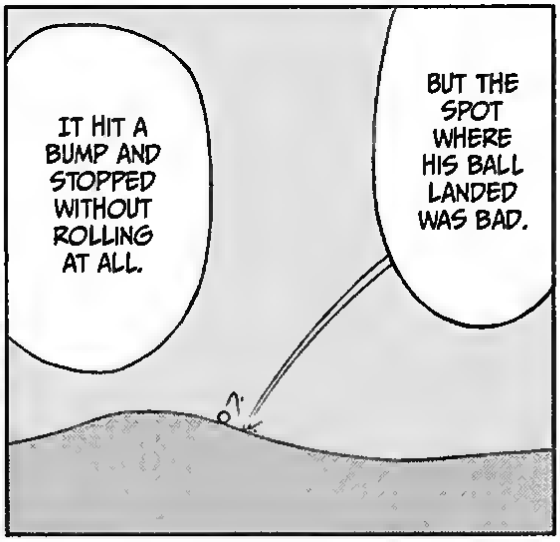
*Carry is the distance the ball travels through the air. The distance the ball rolls after it lands is called a run.

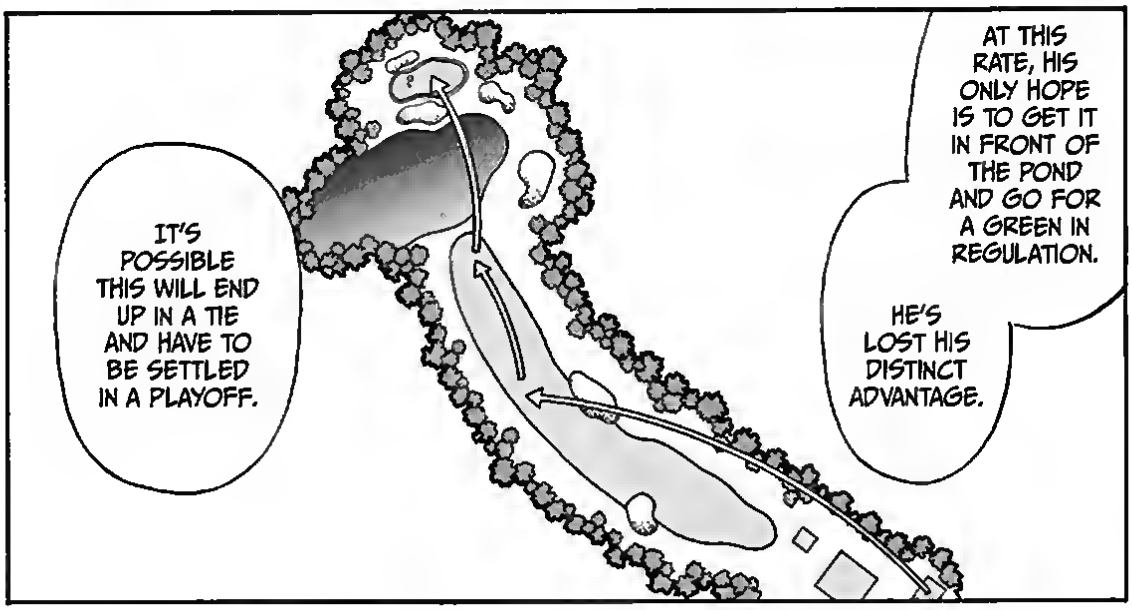
LOOKS LIKE WE STILL CAN'T SAY FOR SURE WHO'S GOING TO WIN THIS THING.
WELL, WELL.
DID THAT CHIP-IN BIRDIE CHANGE THE FLOW OF THE GAME?
TCH!
...!
SRIXON

HUH?
OOOH. THAT'S NOT WHAT YO-KUN WANTED TO DO.

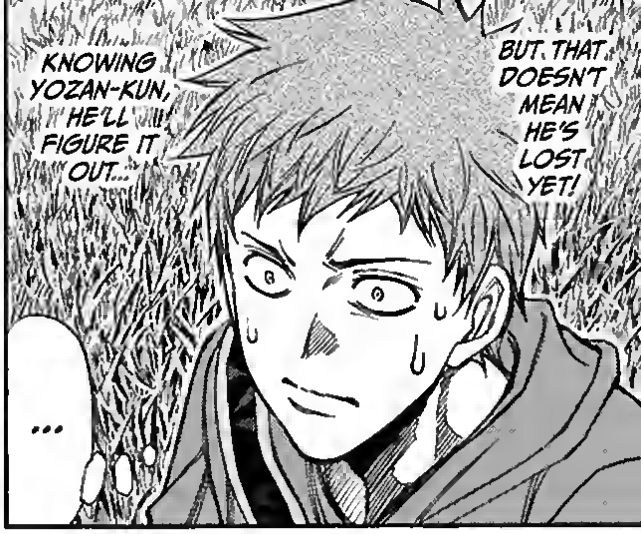

THIS LAST HOLE IS A PAR 5.
YO-KUN WAS PROBABLY GOING FOR AN EAGLE.
AND TO DO THAT, HE WANTED TO USE THE DRIVER TO CARRY THE BALL TO WHERE THE SECOND SHOT CAN REACH THE GREEN.

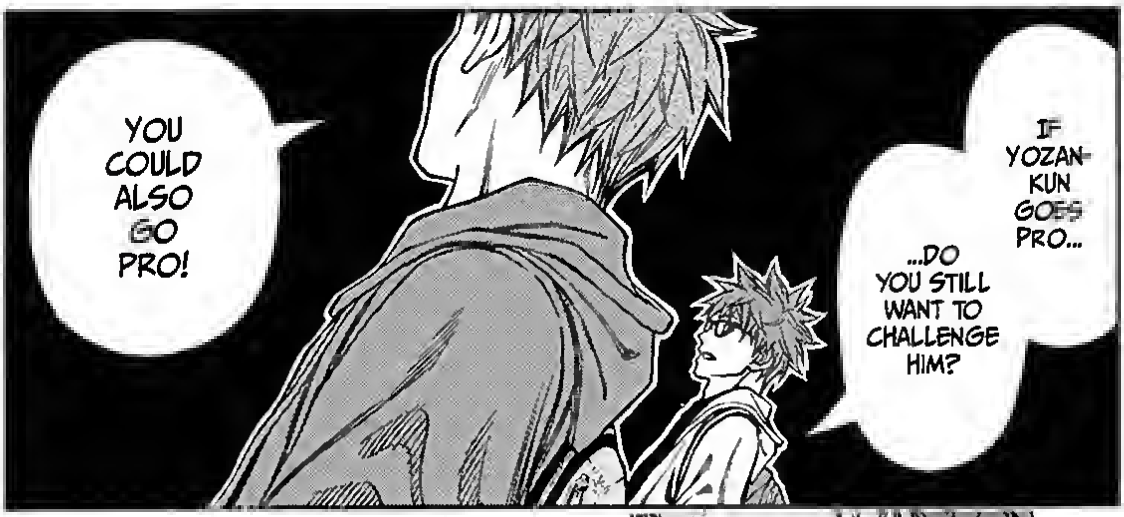

AS A RESULT, IT DIDN'T GO AS FAR AS HE EXPECTED ...
...AND THERE'S 290 YARDS TO THE PIN. NOT TO MENTION THERE'S A POND RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT.


BUT THE SPOT WHERE HIS BALL LANDED WAS BAD.
IT HIT A BUMP AND STOPPED WITHOUT ROLLING AT ALL.


AT THIS RATE, HIS ONLY HOPE IS TO GET IT IN FRONT OF THE POND AND GO FOR A GREEN IN REGULATION.
HE'S LOST HIS DISTINCT ADVANTAGE.
IT'S POSSIBLE THIS WILL END UP IN A TIE AND HAVE TO BE SETTLED IN A PLAYOFF.

HEY, ROBO.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT CONVERSATION FROM EARLIER?


BUT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S LOST YET!
KNOWING YOZAN-KUN, HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT...
...

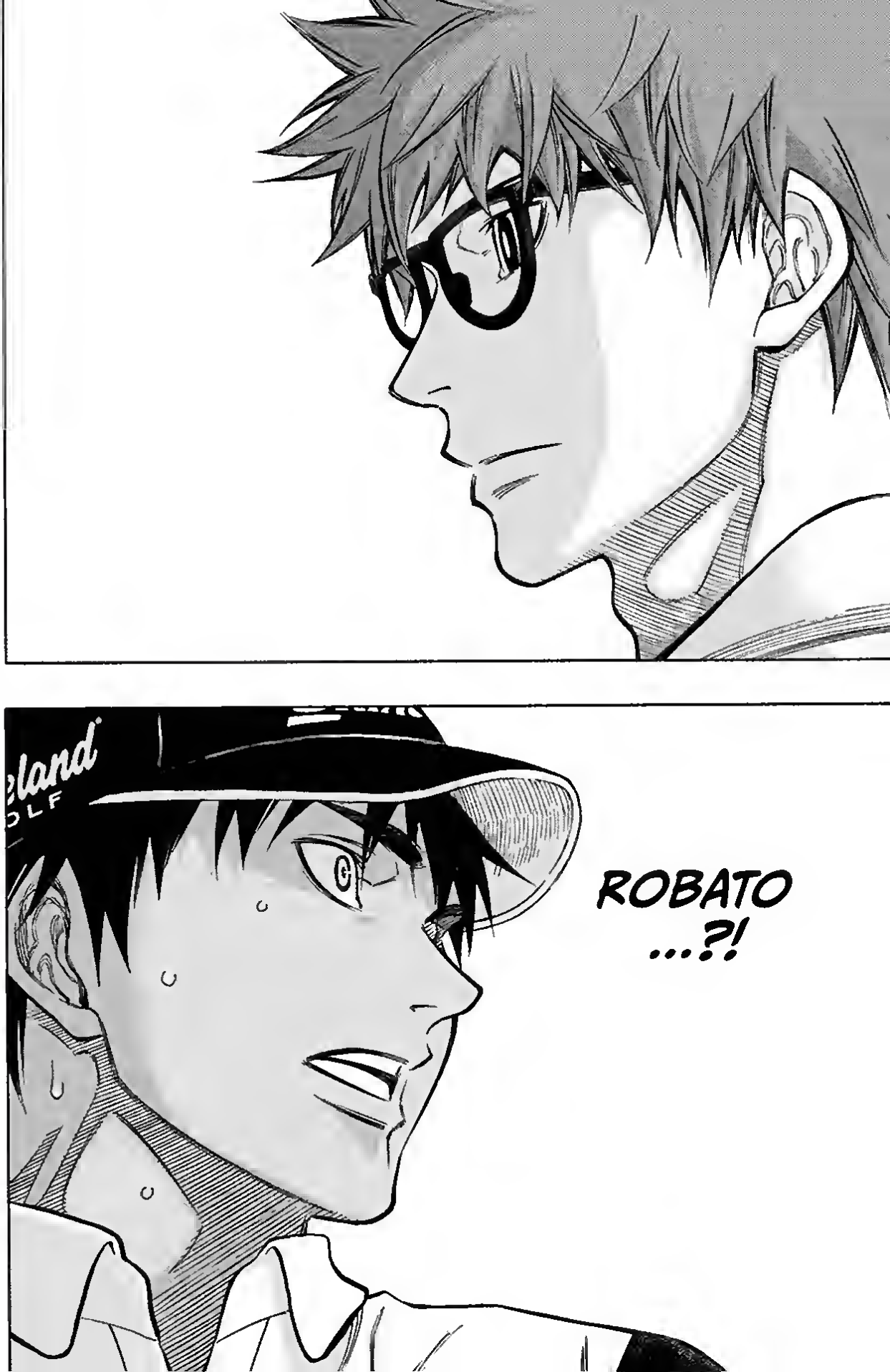

YOU COULD ALSO GO PRO!
IF YOZAN-KUN GOES PRO...
...DO YOU STILL WANT TO CHALLENGE HIM?

THE SECOND IS...
...EVEN WITH ALL OF THAT...

FIRST IS HOW AMAZING YOZAN-KUN IS.
...OF THE SHEER DIFFERENCE IN OUR ABILITIES.
LAST TIME WE PLAYED, I HADN'T REALIZED IT, BUT NOW I HAVE A BETTER SENSE...

I STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT GOING PRO.
BUT AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN, THERE'RE TWO THINGS I'VE LEARNED.

...I STILL WANT TO CHALLENGE YOZAN-KUN.
AND...
...I WANT TO BEAT HIM BECAUSE HE'S AMAZING.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
RIXON
IXON


ROBATO
...?!

TO BE CONTINUED...